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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

REPORT

COUNTRY East Germany

TOPIC Grossenhain Airfield

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONT

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DATE OBTAINED

 DATE PREPARED 18 November 1953

REFERENCES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Grossenhain airfield between 8 and 27 October 1953:

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8 October. In the morning, there was air activity by MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s. Two Li-2s were seen aloft over Grossenhain. Between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m., 2 Li-2s were again observed.

12 October. Repeatedly, aircraft were seen aloft.

13 October. At 10:30 a.m. a formation of 5 MiG-15s was observed aloft over Grossenhain at an altitude of about 2,000 meters. About 11 a.m., 1 Po-2 landed.

25 October. Two Po-2s which came from the northwest, landed at about 11 a.m. The aircraft took off again in the same direction at about noon.

27 October. Shortly past 7 p.m., MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s took off at intervals of 1 to 2 minutes for night flying which still continued after midnight. Four MiG-15s were parked at the southern edge of the field.

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Six other MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s were also observed.

2. On 15 October, no changes in the status of the radio and radar installations in the vicinity of the field were observed. A wooden tower, similar to the usual watch-towers, was observed between the two easternmost hangars. On 27 October, one officer and several soldiers were seen in the AA gun emplacement at the southern edge of the field.

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4. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at the field, between 9 and 15 October:

9 October. Between 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., formation of four aircraft took off to the west and returned after about 30 minutes from the same direction. Two Li-2s took off during the same time. The weather was 8/10 overcast. One Yak-11 was seen aloft between 12:20 p.m. and 1:10 p.m. and between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.; one Po-2 between 2:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

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10 October. At 1:45 p.m., one Yak-11 took off toward the northeast and returned again after 25 minutes. About 3 p.m., no aircraft were parked at the usual dispersal area.

12 October. Between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., some flights by individual Yak-11s were observed. The weather was clear.

13 October. Between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., formations of three Yak-11s took off toward the north and returned after 30 minutes, while other Yak-11s practiced individual flying.

14 October. Between 1:05 p.m. and 1:40 p.m. one Yak-11 was seen aloft. There was a 2/10 overcast. About 2 p.m., 2 west-back jet fighters from another airfield, [redacted] crossed over the field. About 4 p.m., no aircraft were observed at the usual dispersal areas.

15 October. Between 11:50 a.m. and 12:20 p.m. and between noon and 1 p.m. respectively, 1 Li-2 and Yak-11 were seen aloft.

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On 16 October, no air activity was observed. There was ground fog. Twenty soldiers were observed erecting poles and fitting wires; the pulses were in line with the flying lane along the road to Elsterwerda. Eight officers, about 20 to 25 years old, wearing black-bordered blue epaulets with air force and guards insignia, were observed in the streets of Grossenhain.

Comment. A fighter division headquarters and two fighter regiments are stationed at Grossenhain airfield. Most of the aircraft of the regiment probably participated in exercises of the Eighth Gds Army which were held in Thuringia between 10 and 15 October 1953. [redacted] are reported for the first time, [redacted] were previously observed in Koethen and Brand respectively.

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